

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 04648 132144Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00  
AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 /086 W  
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R 131700Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1261  
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4648

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: FAO, ETRD, OCON  
SUBJECT: COIR INTERNATIONAL

REF: (A) ROME 4649 (B) COLOMBO 1119

1. IN ADDITION TO REPORT OF FAO MEETINGS ON HARD FIBERS DURING  
WEEK OF MARCH 6, REFTEL (A), FOLLOWING ARE IMPRESSIONS OF CHIEF  
PRODUCER POSITIONS ON COIR INTERNATIONAL.

2. INDIA IS VERY INTERESTED IN COIR INTERNATIONAL AND WAS PRINCIPAL  
SPOKESMAN. INDIA REP., J. CHANDRA, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, WAS VERY  
NEW TO COIR ISSUES AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, SO HIS STATEMENTS ON  
INDIAN DESIRES LEFT MANY DELEGATES CONFUSED. AT LUNCH WITH USDEL,  
HE CITED HIS MINISTER AS PRESSING IMPORTANCE OF COIR INTERNATIONAL  
AND OPPOSING INDIAN COIR BOARD. THIS ADE KARUNAKAREN OF INDIAN  
COIR BOARD. CHANDRA STATED THAT INDIA'S PRIME DESIRE WAS TO HAVE  
COIR INTERNATIONAL'S HEADQUARTERS LOCATED IN INDIA WITH SUB-OFFICE  
IN SRI LANKA AND RESEARCH OFFICE IN PHILIPPINES.

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3. USDEL ARGUED THAT THIS DIDN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE IF COIR  
INTERNATIONAL ONLY HAS ABOUT TEN EMPLOYEES AND CONCENTRATED  
ON MARKET RESEARCH AS PROPOSED BY FAO REPORT. CHANDRA'S  
RESPONSE WAS THAT INDIA WANTED COIR INTERNATIONAL TO ASSIST  
PRODUCTION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND CITED MUCH  
LARGER BUDGET FIGURES. CHANDRA ALSO MADE POINT THAT IF  
PRODUCERS CONTRIBUTED MOST OF FUNDS AS INDICATED BY FAO

REPORT, THEN THERE WAS NOT SENSE IN SPENDING THE MONEY IN WESTERN EUROPE.

4. IN FAO MEETINGS CHANDRA AVOIDED ISSUE OF LOCATION OF COIR INTERNATIONAL BEYOND SAYING IT WAS CRITICAL ISSUE TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING OF AD HOC WORKING PARTY. HE DID AGREE TO DRAFT OBJECTIVES FOR COIR INTERNATIONAL THAT ARE PRIMARILY MARKET RESEARCH ORIENTED AFTER MAKING STATEMENT ON NEED FOR PRODUCTION RESEARCH.

5. SRI LANK ADELEGATION, P.G. PUNCHIHEWA, MINISTRY OF PLANTATION INDUSTRIES, COLOMBO, AND COUNSELOR .S.M.L. MARIKAR, ONLY SPOKE WHEN INDIAN CHAIRMAN ASKED FOR THEIR SUPPORT WHICH WAS THEN FORTHCOMING. THEY INDICATED SUPPORT FOR COIR INTERNATIONAL BUT WERE CAUTIOUS NOT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES ON A SPECIFIC CONTRIBUTION.

6. PHILIPPINE DELEGATION ONLY SHOWED UP FOR FIVE MINUTES OF ONE MEETING OF AD HOC WORKING PARTY ON COIR INTERNATIONAL. PHILIPPINES HAVE HUGE COCONUT PRODUCTION BUT DELEGATION DOUBTED IT COULD BE USED TO MAKE COIR AS PHILIPPINES USES COCONUTS WHEN THEY ARE GREENER THAN INDIA AND ALSO PHILIPPINES HAS MANY VARIETIES OF COCONUTS. BOTH OF THESE FACTS MAKE IT HARDER TO MAKE A GOOD COIR FIBER. FINALLY, PHILIPPINES ARE NOT SURE THERE IS THAT MUCH OF A CHANGE FOR AN INCREASE IN PRODUCT DEMAND AND RETURN IS LOW. GARDNER  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014